



## **At cross purposes**

*if two people are at cross purposes, they think they are talking about or trying to do the same thing but in fact they are talking about or trying to do different things*

- He realized that they have been talking **at cross purposes**. They weren't offering him the job.
- Because that's working **at cross purposes**, that's absolutely wrong!

## **Come out of your shell**

*to become less shy and more confident*

- Mary used to be very shy, but I think she has **come out of her shell**.
- It's time for you to **come out of that shell**.
- She's so confident now. I think the job has **brought her out of her shell**.

## **Find common ground**

*to come to an agreement on something*

- The leaders of the two countries met to **find common ground**.
- Try to **find common ground** and actually move solutions forward.

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### **From the horse's mouth**

*if you get a piece of information from the horse's mouth, you get it directly from someone who is involved and knows the most about it*

- A: Did you know that Michelle quit?  
B: I don't believe it. I will go ask her and hear it straight **from the horse's mouth**.
- So, you can say, right **from the horse's mouth**, right from Google, no one can guarantee a number one ranking.

### **Get your (wires/lines) crossed**

*to have a misunderstanding or miscommunication with someone else*

- I'm sorry I'm late, I thought we were getting here at 8—we must have **gotten our lines crossed**.
- This is where we kind of **get our wires crossed**.

### **Go off (on/at) a tangent**

*if someone goes off at a tangent, they start saying or doing something that is not directly connected with what they were saying or doing before*

- Our teacher usually **goes off on a tangent** and starts talking about something totally unrelated to the book.
- I think I'm gonna **go off on a tangent** if that's all right.

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